(d) if not, by when all necessary and basic facilities will be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Degree courses in Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy of *4-1/2* duration each are being run by the Institute for the Physically Handicapped, affiliated with Delhi University.

(b) to (d) The Institute has the basic facilities for providing rehabilitation services and conducting short-term and long-term training programmes.

Implementation of Disability Act, 1995

114. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the States which have not yet implemented the Disability Act, 1995 in employment and education; and

(b) the action taken to review and identify posts that can be reserved for disabled persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 has come into force w.e.f. 7.2.1996. The Act requires the appropriate government and the local authorities to ensure access to free education to children with disabilities, provide for integration of such children in normal schools, promote the setting up of special schools where necessary and equip special schools with - facilities for vocational training. The Act also provides for 3% reservation in admission in government run and aided educational institutions. As regards the provisions relating to employment, the Act *inter alia* casts obligation on the appropriate government to provide reservation of

not less than 3% in vacancies in government jobs for persons with disabilities. The States/Union Territory administrations have initiated action to implement the provisions of the Act.

Further, in pursuance of the provisions of Section 32 of the said Act, the Ministry had constituted an Expert Committee to identify/ review the posts in Group A, B, C and D to be reserved under Section 33 of the Act, for the disabled persons in the establishments of Government, of India. The Committee had submitted its report and the same has been finalized.

Assessment of number of senior citizens and old age homes

115. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of number of senior citizens and old age homes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what measures have been taken by Government for the betterment of life and welfare of the senior citizens;

(d) the existing policy, if any, laid down down by Government in this respect; and

(e) if answer to part (d) be in the negative, whether Government would consider the question of formulating such a policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, two Statements marked I and II indicating the projected number of Senior Citizens as per 2001 census and number of old age homes are placed on the Table of the House *(See* below).

(c) (i) National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) has been set up on 10th May, 1999 to operationalize the National Policy for Older Persons, which was announced in January, 1999. The first meeting of NCOP was held at New Delhi on 13th June, 2000. The members